



# HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

An electronic newsletter in support of public safety services in Montana  
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## IM Weekly Highlights



- Brian Sewell, IM Project Manager, continues site visits with the National Guard contractor for the last-mile microwave hop project.
- Infrastructure work has slowed on some of the sites in the southwest loop due to snow. But, Sabre Towers will continue work at any site that is accessible.
- Irene Bushnell, Anderson ZurMuehlen, is back working as the IM Project's accountant.
- The IM Project formally accepted the Jette, Blacktail and Kalispell Water Tank Motorola trunking sites.

## Register Now for Montana APCO

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

If you have not already done so, please take the time to register for the 2009 Montana APCO Conference, which is scheduled for Wed. and Thurs., Oct. 28-29 in Missoula at the Holiday Inn Parkside, 200 South Pattee Street. Additionally, COPS technical assistance training on SOPs for shared radio systems is scheduled on Tues., Oct. 27. APCO International's popular Active Shooter Incidents for Public Safety Communications course is scheduled on both Mon., Oct. 26 and Tues., Oct. 27.

**Register today!**

For more details and to register, visit the Montana APCO web site at: <http://www.mtapco.org>.

## Berger Receives National Appointment

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)



Becky Berger has been appointed by Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman, Julius Genachowski, to serve on the Communications Security, Reliability and Interoperability Council (CSRIC). The CSRIC is a federal advisory committee established to provide recommendations to the FCC to ensure optimal security, reliability and interoperability of communications systems, including public safety,

telecommunications and media communications. The appointment is effective immediately and will expire March 18, 2011.

Becky is the 9-1-1 Program Manager and is responsible for administering the State's 9-1-1 program on behalf of all local 9-1-1 jurisdictions in Montana. Congratulations Becky!

## I-15/90 Consortium Members Updated

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

IM Project Director Dave McPherson began the Oct. 15 meeting of the I-15/90 Corridor Consortium with a report that Butte Silver-Bow finally received word from the FCC—after 35 months of waiting—on its frequency applications. One was rejected, but the other one was approved with some caveats. Jerry Dupler, Timberline Communications, explained the provisions of the license. Dave believes that his Sept. 11 follow-up letter to Senator Max Baucus, which notified him that the FCC did not resolve the issue last February as promised, might have prompted the FCC to finally produce a decision. Altogether, the ruling was favorable to Butte-Silver Bow. Once the final paperwork is in hand, combiners can be ordered for the Butte Silver Bow 9-1-1 and the Red Mountain sites, although Red Mountain cannot be easily accessed now, due to snow conditions.

Members also discussed contract issues with cellular companies on the Rumsey Mountain site. Bob McWilliams, IM Technical Committee (IMTC) Chair, reported that the IMTC adopted new fencing practices and is working on radio best practices for Zone C. Work will take place on a process for getting radios added to the IM system. Work on the Second Master Control site is still progressing, but slowly because of issues with developing a green site on BLM land.

Bob also provided an in-depth update on construction of the PSIC-funded Southwest Loop. Concrete work at the Sawtell site has been postponed several times due to weather conditions. They will try to pour concrete at Sawtell today. Concrete work for the tower foundations and shelter, generator and propane tank pads is complete at the Mauer, Ellis, KONA, and Antelope Butte sites. Work was initially prioritized to tackle the highest, most severe sites first. The VC Pass and Sierra sites are currently open. Everything is

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being done to work around the weather. Whatever work is not accomplished this fall will be completed in the spring.



Photo features tower foundation and concrete pads for the shelter, generator and propane tank at the KONA site, elevation 6,660 feet.



KONA site with the shelter and generator installed.

The next I-15/90 consortium meeting is scheduled at 10:00 am on Thurs., Nov. 19 at the Butte-Silver Bow Chamber of Commerce, 1000 George Street, in Butte.

### Upcoming Meetings

#### OUTREACH MEETINGS

[http://interop.mt.gov/im\\_outreach\\_meetings.mcpx](http://interop.mt.gov/im_outreach_meetings.mcpx)

- **Oct. 20 (Tues.) - Kalispell**

10:30 am - Flathead County Courthouse Annex  
800 South Main St. (Commissioners Mtg. Room)  
1:30 pm - Kalispell City Hall, 201 1st Ave. East  
(City Manager's Office)

- **Oct. 21 (Wed.) - Eureka & Pablo**

9:00 am - Lincoln County Annex Building, Eureka  
(On MT Hwy 37, West of US 93 Junction)  
2:00 pm - Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribal  
Complex - Downstairs, 18 Complex Blvd., Pablo

- **Oct. 22 (Thurs.) - Missoula & Hamilton**

9:00 am - Room 201, Missoula County Courthouse  
Annex, 200 W. Broadway, Missoula  
2:00 pm - Ravalli County 9-1-1 Center  
County Courthouse, 205 Bedford, Hamilton

- **Oct. 29 (Thurs.) - Havre**

9:00 am - Hill County Detention Center  
Courtroom, 1450 2nd Street West, Havre

- **Oct. 21 (Wed.)**

Eastern Tier (ETIC)  
Glendive • 10:00 am  
Dawson County Courthouse Community Room  
207 W. Bell

- **Oct. 22 (Thurs.)**

Big Sky 11 Consortium  
Billings • 8:30 am - Technical Committee  
• 10:00 am - Board Meeting  
Billings Police Dept. Training Center, 4810 Midland Rd.

- **Oct. 26 (Mon.)**

IM Technical Committee  
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
MACo Large Conference Rm., Lower Level  
2715 Skyway Drive

- **Oct. 27 (Tues.)**

COPS Technical Assistance Training  
Missoula • Holiday Inn Parkside, 200 South Pattee St.

- **Oct. 28-29 (Wed.-Thurs.)**

Montana APCO Conference  
Missoula • Holiday Inn Parkside, 200 South Pattee St.  
More information at: <http://www.mtapco.org>

- **Oct. 29 (Thurs.)**

Mobile Data Terminal Consortium  
Bozeman • 10:00 am  
Best Western City Center Motel, 507 W Main St.